# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Willie Pridgen,	: : Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff,	· :
v.	:
Credit Collection Services; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	COMPLAINT
Defendant.	· :

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Willie Pridgen, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

# **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
  - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

4. The Plaintiff, Willie Pridgen ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

- 5. The Defendant, Credit Collection Services ("Credit Collection Services"), is a Massachusetts business entity with an address of 2 Wells Avenue, Department 9133, Newton, Massachusetts 02459, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Credit Collection Services and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
- 7. Credit Collection Services at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

#### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

#### A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Credit Collection Services for collection, or Credit Collection Services was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

## B. Credit Collection Services Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. Credit Collection Services places calls to Plaintiff as often as ten (10) times a day in an attempt to collect the Debt.
- 13. Credit Collection Services places calls to Plaintiff while Plaintiff is at work.

  Plaintiff has asked Credit Collection Services to cease calling him at work because it negatively affects his work performance.
- 14. Credit Collection Services has continued to call Plaintiff at work after receiving Plaintiff's request to cease.
- 15. Credit Collection Services uses rude and abusive language when speaking with Plaintiff.
- 16. Plaintiff has informed Credit Collection Services that he is being represented by an attorney and that they should forward all future communication to Plaintiff's attorney. Credit Collection Services has continued to call Plaintiff.
- 17. An individual identifying himself as Credit Collection Services' attorney questioned why Plaintiff hired an attorney in a bullying manner.
  - 18. Credit Collection Services has failed to send Plaintiff a 30-Day Validation Notice.

#### C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 19. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 20. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

21. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

#### **COUNT I**

## VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, ET SEQ.

- 22. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.
- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(2) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff after having knowledge that the Plaintiff was represented by an attorney.
- 25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(3) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at his place of employment, knowing that the Plaintiff's employer prohibited such communications.
- 26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(2) in that Defendants used profane and abusive language when speaking with the consumer.
- 27. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.
- 28. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(3) in that Defendants misled the Plaintiff into believing the communication was from a law firm or an attorney.
- 29. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the amount of the debt.

- 30. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the name of the original creditor to whom the debt was owed.
- 31. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to dispute the debt within thirty days.
- 32. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice informing the Plaintiff of a right to have verification and judgment mailed to the Plaintiff.
- 33. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice containing the name and address of the original creditor.
- 34. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
  - 35. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

# **COUNT II**

# <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CREDIT EXTENSION</u> <u>UNIFORMITY ACT, 73 P.S. § 2270, ET SEQ.</u>

- 36. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
  - 37. The Plaintiff is a "consumer," as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 38. The Defendants are each individually a "debt collector" as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.

- 39. The Defendants violated provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq., which constitutes an unfair or deceptive practice under 73 P.S. § 2270.4(a).
  - 40. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendants' violations.

## **COUNT III**

#### INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

- 41. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 42. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes…upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."
- 43. Pennsylvania further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus the Defendants violated Pennsylvania state law.
- 44. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing Plaintiff with excessive phone calls to Plaintiff both at Plaintiff's home and while Plaintiff is at work.
- 45. The telephone calls made by the Defendants to Plaintiff were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered, "hounding the plaintiff," and, "a substantial burden to her existence," thus satisfying the Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) requirement for an invasion of privacy.

- 46. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 47. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from the Defendants.
- 48. All acts of the Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

#### **COUNT IV**

# <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, 73 P.S. § 201-1, ET SEQ.</u>

- 49. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 50. The Defendants' violations of the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity

  Act constitute per se violations under the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer

  Protection Law.
- 51. The Defendants' acts were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law.
- 52. As a result of the Defendants' violations, the Plaintiff has suffered ascertainable losses entitling the Plaintiff to actual, statutory and treble damages.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendants;
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A)

against the Defendants;

3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §

1692k(a)(3) and 73 P.S. § 2270.5 against the Defendants;

4. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 2270.5(c);

5. Actual damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);

6. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);

7. Treble damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);

8. Statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) & (C);

9. Actual damages from the Defendants for all damages including emotional

distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent

FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of

privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;

10. Punitive damages; and

11. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: August 25, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By JBB8445

Jody B. Burton, Esq. Bar No.: 71681

LEMBERG & ASSOCIATES L.L.C.

1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Stamford, CT 06905

Telephone: (203) 653-2250

Facsimile: (877) 795-3666

Attorneys for Plaintiff